For me, in many ways this year has felt like the movie “Groundhog Day.” Each day seems to bring similar dilemmas—wake up, put on mask, remember to social distance, remote working, curbside pickup, online learning, reduced or eliminated travel budgets, and so on and on… over and over. As local government officers we face challenges each day, but we know how to fill in those groundhog holes, so we don’t fall in. We do this by quickly mastering new ways of providing services to our citizens while ensuring the health and safety of our workforce.

At this year’s TML Annual Conference, TMCA’s session is focused on the important role our position plays in the successful execution of city operations. The session is titled “The Key to Your Success.” We often hear about having the right people in the right seat on the bus. More importantly, I think it is having the right skill sets to move things forward. What starts the engine? The “key”! As I think about the key, I think of all the parts on the bus ready to roll: fuel, fuses, new tires, steering wheel, and greased parts, but without the key, the bus is going nowhere. City Secretaries provide the knowledge and experience to get things started and running. The TMCA session
features Oscar Trevino, Mayor, City of North Richland Hills; Shanae Jennings, City Secretary, City of Irving; Chris Coffman, City Manager, City of Granbury; and Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC. I hope you’ll tune in and watch the virtual session on Thursday, October 15 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Just like in our cities, our members are the Key to Our Success as an Association. Your Executive Board has been focused on supporting our members through mentoring, education and service to peers. The Board and Committees have been working together looking for ways to maximize the Association’s resources!

**Learning at your Fingertips**—With the onset of the public health emergency’s impact on travel for educational purposes, the Board, Certification Committee and TMCA/TMCCP staff immediately began exploring opportunities to bring our educational programs to you. After a great deal of hard work and planning, we’re excited to have accomplished Strategic Initiative #2 - Promotion of Municipal Clerk Education and Certification through TMCCP by developing and deploying diversified educational program delivery methodologies, including distance learning. In August TMCCP offered its very first online learning experience, a webinar featuring Dr. David Ammons on “Performance Measurement for City Clerks.” This expanded platform for learning has its benefits. Not only can it be done live or on demand, but the hours earned can count towards seminar attendance credit in the certification or recertification programs.

**Seminar Credit is as easy as 1, 2, 3**—Whether you are in the certification or recertification program or just wanting to explore continuing educational opportunities, TMCCP’s new webinars allow you to leverage online learning with traditional learning. Now you can use 12 webinar hours towards credit for one seminar of your choice. Remember to read the information on the website and the FAQ section for all the details.

**The Cherry on Top**—To sweeten the deal on your membership, the Board approved a special drawing for members who renew between October 1 and December 31 the chance to win one of two $1,000 scholarships. The scholarships can be used for registration and travel-related expenses to any TMCCP seminar (includes webinars) in 2021. The drawing for scholarships will be held at the Election Law Seminar in January.

As we enter the final quarter of 2020 where this year has challenged us in ways different than previous ones, one thing remains the same: we are an association of servant leaders providing essential services, enriching the lives of our citizens, and striving for excellence in all that we do. Our cities are stronger because of the services provided by City Secretaries.

While we continue to make plans on ways to better serve you, please share your ideas and needs with us by contacting me directly at sgeorge@cityofallen.org or reaching out to any Executive Board member.

Thank you for what you do!

Shelley George, TRMC
2020 TMCA, Inc., President
Municipal Clerks Office Achievement of Excellence Award

Accepting Applications Oct. 1-Dec. 31

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association is excited to announce the application period for its Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award is about to begin! This award is designed to recognize excellence in effective and efficient service provided to a municipality by a municipal clerk’s office. Learn more here.

Applications for the award are accepted October 1-December 31. Recipients will be notified by March 30, 2021.

We encourage Texas city secretaries to apply to receive this recognition of the excellence your office provides to your city. The office of the city secretary is complex, rigorous, and demanding, requiring the highest standards of ethics and up-to-the moment knowledge and training. So often Texas city secretaries are the last to publicize their own remarkable accomplishments; they are simply proud to serve their communities behind the scenes. They also may not always receive recognition for a job well done. This award is an excellent way to achieve the visibility and recognition you, your office, and the city secretary profession deserves.

Begin preparing your application today—the application packet will take some time for you to assemble. This year’s step-by-step video serves as a guide to application.

We welcome your questions; please email TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt at amy.holt@unt.edu.
TMCCP Graduate Institute
“Navigating Through Challenging Times”

the mornings of Oct. 28-30
Virtual Seminar Held Via Zoom
Registration: $300
Anyone may register

Featuring speaker David Reed, this seminar will address “Leading in Difficult Times,” “Staying Connected to Our Customers,” “Managing Difficult Situations,” and “Maintaining a Positive Culture in a Distributed World.”

Register today!

TMCA Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 11:30 a.m.
Via Zoom Meeting
No charge
Open to all TMCA members

The business meeting is your opportunity to review and accept the treasurer’s report, vote on resolutions for our association, approve honorary memberships, participate in the nomination and election of officers and members of the Board, and witness the swearing-in ceremony of the 2021 Executive Board.

A full agenda packet will be mailed to all members on Oct. 8. A link to the meeting will be emailed to all TMCA members Oct. 26.

TMCA Annual Awards Ceremony

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2:00 p.m.
Livestream
No charge
We welcome all viewers

This year’s ceremony will recognize and celebrate our members including retirees, scholarship recipients, award winners such as the Emerging Leader of the Year and the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, and more. The Awards Ceremony will conclude with the swearing-in and acceptance speech of the 2021 president. Please plan to join us as we celebrate our members!

A link to the event will be emailed to all TMCA members Oct. 26.
TMCA NEWS • SEPTEMBER 2020

TML Conference
2020 TMCA Booth

By TML Booth Committee Chair
Monica Solko, TRMC
City Secretary, Lake Worth

TMCA and its North Texas Chapter regret to inform you that due to the pandemic, the TML Board of Directors concluded that it is impossible for the League to host an in-person meeting. The 2020 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition scheduled for October 14-16 in Grapevine will now be held as a virtual event. TMCA will therefore not have its annual booth this year.

Thank you to Chair Monica Solko and the North Texas Chapter on their work this year on TMCA booth planning.

2020 TMCA Session
At the TML Conference

By TML Session Ad-Hoc Committee Member Lee Woodward, TRMC
City Secretary, La Porte

TMCA’s session will be a part of the virtual TML Annual Conference on Thursday, October 15, from 10:30-11:45 a.m. (and then available to registrants on-demand through the end of the year).

“The Key to Your Success” — Municipal clerks serve and assist elected officials so that cities can responsibly adhere to statute and best practices. Clerks’ resilience and quick responses this year especially aided local leaders to quickly convert to remote participation and new guidelines for elections, public information, and myriad policies. Your clerk is the key to your continued success in upholding the law and conserving resources.

TMCA 2020 President Shelley George, TRMC, City Secretary, Allen, will serve as the moderator for the panel, which includes:
The Honorable Oscar Trevino, Mayor, North Richland Hills
Shanae Jennings, TRMC, City Secretary/Chief Compliance Officer, Irving
Chris Coffman, City Manager, Granbury
Alan Bojorquez, Managing Attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC

Thank you to ad-hoc committee members La Porte City Secretary Lee Woodward and Canyon City Secretary Gretchen Mercer for their work on this event.
Profile

2020 TMCA Certification Committee

The TMCA Certification Committee promotes the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and sets the policies and procedures for the operation of the Certification Program.

This is a brief introduction of the TMCA members who have comprised this vital committee in 2020.

Chair Irma Parker, TRMC

Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker, TRMC, has served as Addison city secretary since 2018. She previously served as city secretary for the City of Port Aransas from 2013 to 2018, and as city secretary for the City of Rockport from 1998 to 2013.

Irma earned her TRMC Certification in 2008 (No. 536), has recertified twice, and is currently enrolled in her third recertification.

Irma is active in TMCA, where she has served on the Advisory Management, Membership, Resolutions, Scholarship, and Nominating Committees; this is her sixth year serving on the Certification Committee. She is a speaker for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, and has also convened at TMCCP Election Law Seminars. Irma has served as president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Update! This month committee member Kimberly Perez, formerly city secretary of Ralls, became the city administrator of Ralls! Congratulations to Kimberly on her new position! In leaving her city secretary position Kimberly stepped down from the committee; Kimberly, we thank you for your service. This month we welcome Plano City Secretary Lisa Henderson, TRMC, as our newest Certification Committee member!

Members of the 2020 Certification Committee. Front row: Kimberly Perez, TRMC (committee member until Sept. 2020); Thomas Harris III, TRMC, city secretary, Sugar Land; Chair Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Addison. Second row: Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Livingston; Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Livingston; Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; and Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP. Inset: Lisa Henderson, TRMC, city secretary, Plano. Not pictured: ex-officio members TMCA President Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; TMCA President Elect Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Immediate Past President Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless.
Profile: 2020 Certification Committee

of the TMCA Coastal Bend Chapter. She is currently a member of the TMCA Lone Star Chapter. Her Coastal Bend Chapter committee service included Membership, Athenian Dialogue Seminar Planning, Scholarship, Nominating, and Audit. She was honored as the Coastal Bend Chapter’s Clerk of the Year and nominee for the TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Irma holds membership in IIMC. She received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation and is actively pursuing her Master Municipal Clerk and IIMC Athenian Fellow certifications.

Irma was an active member of Region 11 of the Texas Municipal League, and served as Region 11 Secretary four times. In addition, she was selected as a member of the TML 100th Birthday Committee. Irma is active in community organizations including the Rotary International, Port Aransas Art Center, Rockport Little Theatre, and Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce where she is a graduate of Leadership Aransas County Class VIII, served as the Government Class Facilitator and was selected Bay Blazer of the Year in 2007.

“I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve my fellow clerks as a member of the Certification Committee. TMCA and TMCCP’s educational programs provide us with the knowledge needed to perform our jobs and earn the respect and trust of our citizens. There is no occupation as rewarding as that of a municipal clerk! I thank the current and past board members and staff for their vision and commitment to our profession and I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside people who honestly work to make our profession better, volunteers, who juggle as hectic a schedule, with work, family, and civic responsibilities, and at the same time, answering the call of service to our noble profession.”

Thomas Harris III, TRMC

Thomas Harris III, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Sugar Land since June 2019. His previous municipal experience includes: deputy city secretary, City of Lubbock (2008-2016), and deputy city secretary, City of Sugar Land (2016-2019).

Thomas earned his Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification in 2012 (No. 650), has recertified, and is enrolled in his second recertification.

Thomas is a longtime member of TMCA. In addition to the Certification Committee he has also served on the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee. Thomas is also a speaker at TMCCP seminars. He is a member of the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter and has previously held membership in the South Plains Chapter Member. Thomas holds membership in IIMC.

“Tremendously enjoying serving on this committee. It’s rewarding to know you’re directly helping other TMCA members in their quest for certification and continuing education. Also, the service is made easy by having such an AWESOME chair! Thanks, Irma, for all you do!”

Ellie Monteaux, TRMC

Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, was appointed city secretary of the City of Livingston in 2007, and since October 2017 she has had the dual role of city secretary and assistant city manager. She
Profile: 2020 Certification Committee

began her service with the City of Livingston in July 2000 as accounts payable/purchasing clerk and transitioned into human resources/payroll clerk.

She earned her TRMC in 2013 (No. 684) and is currently enrolled in her second recertification. Ellie has received Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk designations from IIMC.

Ellie is active in TMCA and has served on the Membership, Retirement, Resolutions, and Strategic Planning Committees. This is her third year serving on the Certification Committee.

Ellie is also co-author of Chapter 6 of TMCA’s Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook, 11th edition. Ellie is honored to be the Pineywoods Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee for 2020. She is a full member of IIMC. She served as a member of the 2018/2019 IIMC Policy Review Committee. Having met all of the requirements, Ellie was accepted as a Fellow in the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society as of August 1, 2018. She was recognized at the 2019 IIMC Annual Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, during the opening ceremony.

Ellie is a member of the Texas City Management Association, the International City Management Association and the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas.

“As a member of the Certification Committee, I am excited to see fellow clerks benefit from tuition scholarship and travel stipends. It is encouraging to know that our predecessors in TMCA were thoughtful and diligent to put this assistance in place. This commitment to future generations of municipal clerks is a vital part of my role on the Certification Committee.”

Kimberly Sloat, TRMC

Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, has served as city secretary of the City of Canadian since May 2013. She served as a member of the 2018/2019 IIMC Policy Review Committee. Having met all of the requirements, Ellie was accepted as a Fellow in the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society as of August 1, 2018. She was recognized at the 2019 IIMC Annual Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, during the opening ceremony.

Kimberly earned her TRMC certification in 2014 (No. 728). She recertified in 2019 and is enrolled in her second recertification.

Kimberly is active in TMCA and has served on the Certification, Audit, Municipal Clerk of the Year, and Strategic Planning Committees. She is a member of the TMCA Panhandle Chapter, where she has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. She is currently the chapter historian. In the Panhandle Chapter she has served on the Nominating Committee, By-laws Committee, Seminar Host Committee, and Scholarship Committee.

“There is a lot of necessary work that goes into the Certification Committee. The chair of this committee really has a great responsibility, and Irma Parker does a fabulous job! However, my favorite part is getting to be part of the graduation ceremony. It is such a huge accomplishment to get certified and recertified, and I truly LOVE getting to celebrate that with our membership.”
TMCCCP Certificates Earned

Congratulations to the following enrollees who recently earned course certificates in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program after completing the homework, attending the required seminars, and passing the examination for the designated course.

**Course 1**
- Kelli Beall, Hemphill
- Kelly Belmore, Roman Forest
- Miguel Cantu, Hondo
- Johna Childers, Lufkin
- Amber Cunningham, Italy
- Julie Davidson, Frisco
- Clementina Garcia
- Andrea Gardner, Watauga
- Olga Garza, Southside Place
- Isaura Gayton, Live Oak
- April Gilliland, Liberty
- Sandra Green, Farmersville
- Julie Harvill, Anahuac
- Jennifer Lynch, Smithville
- Melissa McCall, Diboll
- Tracy Miller, Kirby
- Kimberly Morris, Jones Creek
- Brenda Poe, Huntsville
- Misty Richardson, Fairfield
- Gladis Sanchez, La Porte
- Becky Sims, Lampasas
- Marisa Spencer, Garden Ridge
- Amy Wallace, Crosbyton
- Kimberly Wagner, Llano
- Gayle Wilkinson, Schertz

**Course 2**
- Shawna Atkinson, Abilene
- Kelli Beall, Hemphill
- Miguel Cantu, Hondo
- Roberto Cardenas, Selma
- Vicky Coopwood, Texarkana
- Julie Davidson, Frisco
- Connie Gibbens, Hays
- April Gilliland, Liberty
- Natasha Hinton, League City
- Teresa Johnson, Gordon
- Catherine Long, Liverpool
- Melissa McCall, Diboll
- Lisa McCracken, College Station
- Stephanie Mills, West Lake Hills
- Carla Oldacre, Wills Point
- Becky Sims, Lampasas
- Lisa Wilson, Copperas Cove

**Course 3**
- Sonia Acosta, Deer Park
- Shawna Atkinson, Abilene
- Brandy Barrett, Westworth Village
- Kelli Beall, Hemphill
- LeeAnn Blankenship, Anson
- Susan Collazo, Post
- Nikki Coronado, Shallowater
- Amber Cunningham, Italy
- Julie Davidson, Frisco
- Kristin Downs, Duncanville
- Connie Gibbens, Hays
- April Gilliland, Liberty
- Elizabeth Harrell, Oak Ridge North
- Natasha Hinton, League City
- Shamarie Hull, Collinssville
- Teresa Curry Johnson, Gordon
- Elanna Killian, Humble
- Catrina Maxwell, Nassau Bay
- Melissa McCall, Diboll
- Syra Nichols, Pecos
- Carla Oldacre, Wills Point
- Gladis Sanchez, La Porte
- Becky Sims, Lampasas
- Marisa Spencer, Garden Ridge
- Amy Wallace, Crosbyton
- Gayle Wilkinson, Schertz
- Lisa Wilson, Copperas Cove

**Course 4**
- Miguel Cantu, Hondo
- Amber Cunningham, Italy
- Connie Gibbens, Hays
- Sandra Green, Farmersville
- Shamarie Hull, Collinssville
- Teresa Johnson, Gordon
- Elanna Killian, Humble
- Patti Lowrance, Floydada
- Melissa McCall, Diboll
- Tracy Miller, Kirby
- Syra Nichols, Pecos
- Margie Poole, Burk Burnett
- Ashley Owens, Coppell
- Terry Ruiz
- Becky Sims, Lampasas
- Marisa Spencer, Garden Ridge
- Marsha Stone, Vernon
- Sally Villarreal, Lake Jackson
- Gayle Wilkinson, Schertz
- Lisa Wilson, Copperas Cove
Alamo Chapter

By Debby Goza, TRMC
City Secretary, Live Oak

Our Alamo Chapter members have not met this quarter due to COVID. Our Alamo Chapter President Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo, TRMC, decided that meeting as a group was not safe and unfortunately with some of our members working different days, hours, and assisting with COVID issues within their cities, it might prove burdensome to have a Zoom meeting. With that said, at right is a list of our Alamo Chapter group.

The Alamo Chapter will have our first in-person meeting on August 26, and our host will be the City of Schertz. I have asked our members to submit statements, projects and community events that they have been involved with.

City of Cibolo

The City of Cibolo has been hosting virtual Town-Hall Meetings to keep the citizens of Cibolo informed on things going on in the city during the pandemic. During the virtual meeting, we cover topics such as COVID-19 within Cibolo and Guadalupe County, infrastructure work being accomplished, and new development that is being built in the city. Citizens have the opportunity to ask questions to both members of council and city staff.
City of Live Oak

The City of Live Oak has been busy during the enforced shutdown these last few months. City council & EDC adopted a goal to strengthen the city’s employment base. It was felt that the Live Oak business community needed our support during this extraordinary health crisis. There was a creation of a grant to provide short-term, immediate financial aid to small businesses who met certain criteria and had sustained economic losses. The EDC provided a maximum award total of $5,000 for each applicant allowing Live Oak to assist up to 60 small businesses. The grant was utilized by 49 small businesses to date. Donna Lowder, executive assistant to EDC, worked at length and painstakingly to get all the documents out to businesses and to process their request.

Trudy Whitfield, HR, got creative during our quarantine and created the Live Oak Employee Intranet. This Intranet houses forms for assistance with the COVID policy, forms, and updates to the Personnel Policy. The City of Live Oak is lucky to have her on our team!

City of Schertz

Brenda Dennis, city secretary, Schertz, is also the secretary of the North East Partnership and assisted with the NEP in sending NEP COVID-19 checks out to the cities to provide to their businesses. The NEP allocated $25,000 and divided the dollars to the 12 NEP municipalities—the NEP municipalities presented checks out to those businesses in thanks for what they were doing during the COVID-19 virus. The City of Schertz, its mayor, city manager, and a few council members presented a check to 10 local businesses. Brenda also volunteered to help the Guadalupe County food drive that was hosted by Guadalupe County Commissioners Court—where we fed 400 families; it was so awesome.

Lastly, Debby Goza, City Secretary, attended a June 26 virtual Athenian Dialogue on Zoom about *First Family* by Joseph J. Ellis; our facilitator was Amy C. Holt, PhD. This was my second Athenian Dialogue, and I was impressed, learned some interesting facts, and had a great time with all the folks who attended. Thank you, Dr. Holt!
City of Hondo

With all the hullabaloo that has been going on in the world, the Alamo Chapter would like to congratulate Hondo City Secretary Miguel Cantu and Assistant to the City Manager Elsa Robles for receiving the TMCA Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award. This award recognizes excellence in the effective and efficient management of resources in a municipal clerk’s office. The Alamo Chapter would like to congratulate and recognize their hard work, professionalism and management! I am sure there are more awards and certificates in their future!

Member Announcements

City of Live Oak announces that Isa Gaytan, Administration Assistant in the Police Department, took her first test for her TMCCP TRMC Certification and passed. We are all super excited for her!

City of Leon Valley announces that Ana Federico is a new member and has enrolled in the TMCCP program!

City of Converse announces their new city secretary, Lisa Hernandez. Lisa made the move from a 1,500 population city (Natalia) to a 30,000 population city (Converse) and from a General Law to Home-Rule! Lisa’s first day was July 13. The City of Converse is lucky to have her!

Other Business

The Alamo Chapter will host an in-person meeting August 26 at 11:00 a.m.; the City of Schertz will be hosting at Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway – Building #5, Bluebonnet Hall.

Food for Thought

“If you can’t fly, run. If you can’t run, walk. If you can’t walk, crawl, but by all means, keep moving.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.
Capital Chapter

By Chapter President Myrna Rios, TRMC
Deputy City Clerk, Austin

Without an end in sight of these unprecedented times, we continue to meet virtually. The Capital Chapter met on July 15 and the meeting was promptly called to order. While only a small group joined, good fun conversation was had on “Tell us something unique about your City.” Check out some of the responses!

- College Station – in 1877 the postal service designated the area as “College Station,” derived from a train station that was located west of the campus.
- San Marcos – San Marcos has the oldest known inhabitants in the spring lake waters.
- Austin – has a nudist beach named Hippie Hollow; it is one of the sunniest cities in America with 300 days of sunshine; it has the largest bat colony in North America, and we are no longer weird. 😊
- Taylor – The High School Mascot is a Duck, they take so much pride in their mascot that if you see ducks crossing the road, community members will do what it takes to get them to safety!
- Manor – in 1993, the movie “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape” starring Johnny Depp was filmed in the town of Manor.
- Brenham – Have you heard of Blue Bell Ice Cream? Also, Brenham has a clothing optional campground called “Live Oak Resort.”
- Wimberley – is a purported “Spiritual Vortex” area.

The Capital Chapter will be hosting an Athenian Dialogue soon and we look forward to discussing the assigned book with other members.

Future Capital Chapter meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice. The next scheduled meeting is in September. Please contact Chapter President Myrna Rios, Deputy City Clerk, Austin at myrna.rios@austintexas.gov with questions or if you would like to virtually join us!
Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Jana Lewellen, TRMC
City Secretary, Temple

The Central Texas Chapter held a virtual quarterly meeting on June 24. As seen time and time again in recent months, no matter what adversity comes our way, clerks around the world continue to adapt to new ways and this meeting was a prime example of that. Although we were unable to install our new officer’s in March as planned, the Central Texas Chapter was not going to let COVID-19 stand in the way of a ceremony we hold so dearly. Patricia Ervin, Interim City Secretary, City of Lacy Lakeview, proudly installed: President Esmeralda Hudson, City Secretary, City of Waco; Vice President Christi Shivers, City Secretary, City of Mexia; Secretary Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, City of Temple; Assistant Secretary Michelle Hicks, City Secretary, City of Lacy Lakeview; Treasurer Amy Casey, City Clerk, City of Belton; Historian Roshuna Wiley, Deputy City Secretary, City of Mexia; and Benevolence Officer Donna Barkley, City Secretary, City of Woodway; as the newly appointed officers for 2020-2022!

During this virtual meeting, the Central Texas Chapter announced Liz Caraway, Assistant City Secretary, City of Waco, as the 2020 Chapter Clerk of the Year, and Christi Shivers, City Secretary, City of Mexia, as the 2020 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee! Both of these ladies have been mentors to so many in our chapter, and truly have a servant’s heart!

The chapter also took a moment to discuss donations to state and local scholarships. We know in the uncertain times, any donations made can make such an
Central Texas Chapter

impact on professional development and help those who apply achieve their educational goals!

In other chapter news, we will hold our September 2020 meeting virtually as we continue adhere to the recommended social distancing guidelines.

For more information about joining the Central Texas Chapter and our meetings, please contact Chapter President Esmeralda Hudson at ehudson@wacotx.gov.

Chapter members present at the June Zoom Meeting:

Liz Caraway, assistant city secretary, Waco
Jana Lewellen, city secretary, Temple
Christi Shivers, city secretary, Mexia
Esmeralda Hudson, city secretary, Waco
Lydia Lopez, city secretary, Hewitt
Amy Casey, city clerk, Belton
Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia
Sandy Polk, public records specialist, Waco
Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville
Patricia Ervin, interim city secretary, Lacy Lakeview
Cara McPartland, city secretary, Salado
Tiffany Gentry, city secretary, Meridian
Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Cathy Duhart, TRMC
City Secretary, Sinton

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! This quarter our chapter held a Zoom meeting on June 4. Those in attendance were: Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville; Teresa Valdez, City Secretary, City of Rockport; Ruby Beaven, Assistant City Secretary, City of Rockport; Kimberly Henry, Asst. to the City Manager, City of Rockport; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Norma Duran, Management Assistant, City of Corpus Christi; Mary Gonzales, City Secretary, City of Mathis; and April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria.

We enjoyed talking and bringing each other up to speed on what has been going on in our particular cities; plus it was awesome to lay eyes on each other and make sure all was going well.

The nomination was made and approved by the chapter to submit Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville, as our nominee for the TMCA Clerk of the Year Award. Mary has done an excellent job serving as the chapter president for the Coastal Bend Chapter and we are so proud to have her represent us.

Anyone interested in joining the Coastal Bend Chapter—or for general inquiries—can contact Chapter Secretary Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton, at 361-364-2381 or city1395@sintontexas.org.
Greetings TMCA Members!

I hope you are staying safe and doing well. For the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA), we like everyone are navigating through the pandemic and succumbing to our new reality. As things begin to open back up and we settle into virtual school, meetings, and mask-wearing, we are taken back to a time when things were not so simple. It is almost like a pause on life that helps us reflect on what is truly meaningful, what we need, and what we can live without. As municipal clerks, we know this reality all too well as we do more with less; yet we come together to face these challenges, we think and rethink, do lots of research, and even reach out to chapter members for advice, guidance, and support. NTMCA members continue to thrive and support each other in so many ways. It always makes me proud of our organization when I witness the spirit of camaraderie and support shared among our members.

During the month of May, the membership opted to host a virtual Zoom meeting since elections were moved to November. Our meeting was a big hit with our guest speaker, Leo Cardenas, who changed his presentation to accommodate our virtual needs. Mr. Cardenas spoke on the topic of “Can You See Me,” which helps you to recognize your own body language as well as others’ on virtual calls and gave us 20 tips on how to improve ourselves. Tips that he gave included: body language doesn’t have to be seen to be heard, and people perform better and work better when they are standing up—and even sound better and feel better. He also emphasized focusing on your web camera—not the image of the other participants when on a virtual call—which gives the appearance of speaking directly to other participants. Also take the time to dedicate to the call and/or conversation at hand—distraction equals destruction.
In June we held our annual awards luncheon in the Grand Hall at NRH Centre. The location, menu, and glowing vases as centerpieces were enjoyed by all. I was presented the NTMCA Clerk of the Year award and Alicia Richardson (North Richland Hills) was nominated for the TMCA Clerk of the Year award. Alicia has been a longtime volunteer, a mentor, and huge advocate for our profession. We are fortunate to have her as a member of our chapter. She is constantly giving back to the association and supporting her fellow clerks and is always willing to step up and serve. She served as chair of the Alyce Deering Scholarship Committee this year. Thank you, Alicia! We all thrive because of the efforts of our dedicated members. On top of all our work and home obligations, our committee members find the time to contribute to our chapter in a meaningful way. Our chapter would not exist without the hard work and contributions of our committee members. During the awards luncheon, we recognized the following committees and members:

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
Kelly Ballard, Keller, Chair
Jillian Cloud, Arlington

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Lindsay Wells, Euless, Chair
Jennifer Phillips, Irving
Tina Stewart, The Colony

ALYCE DEERING SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Chair
Irma Parker, Addison
Allison Tidwell, Fort Worth
Tara Brooks, Grapevine

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Kim Sutter, Euless, Chair
Shanae Jennings, Irving
Ron Gonzales, Fort Worth

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Amy Shelley, Southlake

PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR COMMITTEE
Alicia Smith, Willow Park, Chair
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At top: The NTMCA Chapter at their awards luncheon in North Richland Hills in June.

Above: NTMCA Clerk of the Year Monica Solko, TRMC (left), city secretary, Lake Worth, and TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary North Richland Hills.
Our July meeting was another Zoom meeting with speaker Veronica Juarez. She shared valuable information with us on communication. Her topic, “Can’t We Just Talk: Six Keys to Becoming a More Effective Communicator,” introduced us to tips for becoming a more effective communicator professionally and personally. Tips were given on understanding the things that influence your communication style such as the way you see the world—age, gender, social role, culture, and non-verbal communication. Listening skills were emphasized, as was being an assertive communicator—speak kindly, concretely (not abstractly), create the right climate for two-way communication, use “I” and avoid “you”, and avoid “always” and “never.”

In August we hosted a virtual Athenian Dialogue on August 7. I want to give a BIG thanks to the Seminar Committee (Shelley Scazzero, Hudson Oaks, Lisandra Leal, North Richland Hills) for doing an awesome job with this year’s Athenian Dialogue. The dialogue was led by Jannette Goodall, City of Austin, who did an excellent job of presenting “Girl Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are So You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be” by Rachel Hollis.

On August 16 the City of Haltom City hosted our in-person business meeting/luncheon. Thank you to Art Camacho, City Secretary for hosting our chapter. The Diamond Oaks Country Club was a beautiful venue and the food was excellent. Our speaker was Jeremy Baugh, City of North Richland Hills Information Services, who spoke on the topic of “Cybersecurity 101.” During his presentation he gave excellent information on malicious emails, social media, malware, and virtual software. Hackers are always one step ahead, so we have to be vigilant and stay two steps ahead of them: 1) think before you act, 2) when in doubt throw it out, 3) share with care, 4) create strong passwords, 5) secure access to your online accounts, 6) use security software and protect your PC, 7) always log off, 8) secure your mobile device, and 9) call for support, they’re there to help!

Our guest speaker was TMCA President Shelley George. Her presentation included highlights of her current term as TMCA president and the challenges of the pandemic that have restricted her travel to virtual meetings with chapters. She presented information about TMCA boards and committees and encouraged everyone to serve.
Our most recent business luncheon was an in-person meeting on September 16, hosted by the City of Euless at the Texas Star Golf Course. Our guest speaker was Nikki Nanos who spoke about “Connection.”

The NTMCA Board is wrapping up another productive year. In FY 19-20, we maintained a balanced budget, had some amazing speakers, maintained our Facebook page, and revamped our website which improved communication with our members. We could not do it without our committee volunteers, host cities, supporters, and members for their time and devotion to our chapter. Our October 21 business meeting will be a virtual meeting with guest speaker Kelley Moore, who will be speaking about “Achieving Confidence, Credibility, and Composure.” If you are interested in attending, guests are welcome.

Details can be found on the NTMCA website under the “Meeting” tab: [www.ntmca.org](http://www.ntmca.org). (Our November business meeting has been cancelled due to elections.)

Now this being my last TMCA newsletter as president, I’d like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to each of our chapter board members. Vice President Traci Henderson, Treasurer Erika McComis, Secretary Dianna Buchanan, and Historian Tammy Dixon have done a fabulous job this year! It truly is a group effort, and I have been honored to work with this team! I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work, encouragement, and friendship! I wish you the best as you carry the torch next year. I know you will all do great work on behalf of our members.
The Panhandle Chapter met for our bi-monthly meeting on June 25 at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo. President Machiel Covey called the meeting to order with nine members in attendance. This was the first time the chapter has met in person since our last meeting on February 20 so we were all very excited to see each other.

Our program for the meeting was presented by TMCA President Shelley George via phone. We originally planned to visit with President George by Zoom, however, despite our best efforts, the internet was not our friend that day. Discussion included Covid-19 and how it has had an impact on not only our communities but also the challenges with meeting in-person for seminars.

In chapter business, TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year and Chapter Clerk of the Year nominations were discussed. President Covey also reminded members of the upcoming seminars for Public Funds and Open Meetings Act.

Our next scheduled meeting was August 27 at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo.

Anyone interested in joining the Panhandle Chapter please contact: Chapter Secretary Kim Fowler, City Secretary-Perryton, at 806-435-4014 or citysecretary@perryton.com.
Happy September from the Pineywoods Chapter! I hope this article finds you all well. Who knew that months later we would still be navigating the coronavirus pandemic in our communities across Texas. Texas municipal clerks and city secretaries continue to meet the challenges head-on with strength and determination.

The TMCA Pineywoods Chapter meeting scheduled for July 15 in Lufkin was cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. Hopefully, we will get to meet for our next regular quarterly meeting on October 21 in Lufkin. You are welcome to join us for lunch at Lufkin B-B-Q. It will surely be a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement from our peers. If travel restrictions are still in place, we hope to meet via Zoom. This will be a new experience for our chapter. It will be great to see everyone—even if we’re not in person.

Congratulations to Pineywoods Chapter Member Laure Morgan on her transition to City Secretary of Brownsville, Texas. We will miss her leadership and support in our chapter. Best wishes to Laure!

Congratulations to Pineywoods Chapter President Ellie Monteaux on receiving her IIMC designation as Master Municipal Clerk on July 13.

Congratulations to Pineywoods Chapter members who are continuing to work toward their TRMC certification and recertifications! This is no easy task with all of the travel challenges. Your hard work is to be commended! Take a look at the virtual options available to complete an IIMC Athenian Dialogue. It would be a lot of fun to join in a dialogue with clerks from another state or another region.

Best wishes from the Pineywoods Chapter!
Red River Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Sharon McFadden, TRMC
City Secretary, Graham

The Red River Chapter exercised caution and conducted virtual meetings this past quarter. Unfortunately, our last in-person meeting was back in December 2019. On May 20 President Balthrop called the meeting to order via Zoom and welcomed everyone. Normal chapter business followed, with the approval of minutes and financials. We discussed chapter travel stipend policies, nominations of TMCA Clerk of the Year, and nominations for Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year. The chapter agreed to recognize TMCA staff for their dedicated service to our organization. A generous donation was provided for a gift card to be given to staff. The Red River Chapter intends to host an Athenian Dialogue in the near future and discussion took place regarding book selection and coordination of the dialogue. On June 24 President Marie Balthrop hosted a Google meeting to discuss our nominations and set the deadline for TMCA and the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year nominations.

The Red River Chapter celebrated several members for their accomplishments. Chapter President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, was awarded the Master Municipal Clerk Certification (MMC) by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Jo Stone, city secretary, Vernon, recently passed her final exam toward earning her TMRC. Chapter President Marie Balthrop, city clerk, Wichita Falls, was selected by our chapter as the Red River Chapter...
representative for the TMCA Clerk of the Year. Sharon McFadden, city secretary, Graham, was selected as the Red River Chapter’s Clerk of the Year. The City of Graham and the City of Wichita Falls were both awarded TMCA’s Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence. President Balthrop made a trip to Graham on June 25 and attended the city council meeting to present Sharon McFadden her award. In addition, President Balthrop gave a special presentation to Graham City Council on Sharon’s accomplishments with our Red River Chapter, TMCA, and IIMC. Congratulations to all Red River Chapter members for their achievements!

Our next meeting was scheduled for September 16 and we hoped to meet in person. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

For more information about the Red River Chapter contact Chapter President Marie Balthrop (Wichita Falls) at marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov.

Top right: Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, and Theodore Stoll, Deputy City Clerk, Wichita Falls, with the Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award.

Near right: Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls with her MMC certificate.
In April due to COVID-19 the meeting that was originally scheduled for April 8 was cancelled. The chapter takes a hiatus during the summer months of May-July. However, our membership always finds ways to stay engaged and consistent with expanding their knowledge and attending educational opportunities when they arise.

In June during the TMCA Records Management Seminar the following individuals passed their exams:

- Kim Dickey, Waller
- Elanna Killian, Humble
- Kim Morris, Jones Creek
- Michael Muscarello, Webster
- Sally Villarreal, Lake Jackson

Congratulations to you all!

In addition, some of our SGC members were in attendance at the June seminar in San Antonio. Pictured at right: Paula Favors, City Secretary for the City of Wharton; Elanna Killiam, Administrative Assistant for the City of Humble; Roxanne Benitez, City Secretary of Spring Valley Village; Valerie Cantu, Assistant City Secretary for Bunker Hill Village; Michael Muscarello, Interim City Secretary for City of Webster; Maria Rodriguez, Deputy City Secretary for the City of Pearland.
As we continue to be innovative with the “new norm”, Athenian Dialogue “First Family” held on June 26, 2020 was done so via ZOOM hosted by Dr. Amy Holt.

In addition, former SGC President & City of Hunters Creek City Secretary Crystal Dozier and her husband Kevin, welcomed their baby girl (pictured at right).

In July Jenny Page, City Secretary, Humble, earned her MMC. Way to go Jenny!

The Salt Grass Chapter hosted our 19th Annual Public Information Act (PIA) Seminar on September 9. This year’s seminar was virtual. It was an excellent training opportunity for both experienced and inexperienced City Clerks/City Secretaries and other personnel who work with public information requests daily. The seminar provided information on compliance with the Public Information Act relating to the Basics of the Public Information Act and Processing Requests; Attorney General Letter Rulings; Law Enforcement/First Responder Requests; and Judicial Requests.

Our September virtual chapter meeting was held the same day. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December—our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome visitors!
South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Zanea Carpenter, TRMC
City Secretary, Muleshoe

The South Plains Chapter met on June 24 at Cook’s Garage in Lubbock for our quarterly meeting. The meeting was hosted by Elena Quintanilla from the City of Ransom Canyon.

Chapter President Belinda Terrell of Whiteface called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place. Elena Quintanilla of Ransom Canyon introduced speakers Michael Vaught, Director of Technology Consulting & Marketing, and Julie Heinrich, Marketing & New Business Development Coordinator, with CTSI. CTSI (Computer Transition Services, Inc. CTSI is a managed IT service provider. They also provide cyber security services, disaster recovery services and a consultant voice to help make IT decisions. CTSI has been in business for over 35 years. Michael and Julie presented a program to the group highlighting their business and how CTSI could be a valuable tool to cities in our area.

President Terrell presented retirement blankets from TMCA, Inc., to LeAnn Gallman of Muleshoe, Sharon Trumble of New Deal, and Beth Walls of Levelland.

Committee members for the Nominating committee were appointed. Committee members consist of Chairman Brenda Shaw of Morton,
Amanda Cummings of Shallowater, Nikki Coronado of Shallowater, and Kim Perez of Ralls.

Our next meeting was September 16 with host Kim Perez, City of Ralls. If you would like to join a South Plains Chapter meeting please contact Secretary Zanea Carpenter at zcarpenter@muleshoetx.org for information.
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: TMCA/TMCCP Advisory Management Committee Chair Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, Wichita Falls; Peggy Burnsise, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

President Shelley George, Texas Municipal Clerks Association President

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Kimberly Sloat, Texas Municipal Clerks Association President

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Shelley George, Allen, President

Kim Sutter, Euless, Immediate Past President

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Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Spearman

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Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

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